

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 AF-10 SCI-06 AID-20 DRC-01 /194 W
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R 100222Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR RP KS

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM CUTBACK DEFENSE IMPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 216846

B SEOUL 7486

TOKYO PASS TO COMUSJ SUB-AREA PETROLEUM OFFICE

1. AT BRIEF MEETING OF US-ROK JOINT PETROLEUM COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 9, CHAIRMAN INQUIRED WHETHER REFINING CUTBACK WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT UPON (A) SALES OF POL PRODUCTS BY KOREAN REFINERIES TO US FORCES KOREA (USFK) AND (B) KOREAN DEFENSE RESERVES. FOR THE RECORD, ROKG CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT ROKG EXPECTS TO SUPPLY USFK TO FULL EXTENT CONTRACTED SINCE USFK CONTRIBUTING TO DEFENSE OF KOREA. HE ALSO SAID THAT ROKG WOULD DO ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE RESERVES (NOW ALL IN BULK) AT LEVEL SPECIFIED IN JOINT PETROLEUM AGREEMENT. WITH REFERENCE TO ROK FORCES, HE SAID THAT ALLOCATIONS WILL NOT BE CUT BUT MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IS EXPECTED TO INSTITUTE
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CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN ORDER TO REDUCE DEMAND.

SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "PERSONAL OPINION", HE ASKED IF US FORCES WOULD CONSIDER PROCURING MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS) AND DIESEL FUEL (DFM), ESPECIALLY LATTER, FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN KOREA. HE EXPLAINED THAT ROKG WOULD NOT ADOPT NEGATIVE ATTITUDE BUT EXPLAINED THAT SEVERE SHORTAGES WOULD OCCURE IN DIESEL FUEL AND BUNKER C. KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ROK FORCES USE IMPORTED AVAIATION GAS EXCLUSIVERLY AND WONDERED IF USFK COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IF KOREA EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES PROCURING AVIATION GAS. US REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THAT USFK PROCURES ONLY VERY SMALL PORTION OF ITS MOGAS AND DFM REQUIREMENTS IN KOREA, THAT USFK IS INSTITUTING ASUTERE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO COOPERATE IN THIS REGARD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. CRITICAL ELEMENT FROM USFK POINT OF VIEW IS JP-4, ALL OF WHICH IS PROCURED FROM KOREA REFINERIES. PRESENT CONTRACTS FOR JP-4 EXPIRE DECEMBER 31. ONLY ONE CONTRACT FOR PARTIAL SUPPLY OF JP-4RE-QUIREMENT IN 1974 HAS BEEN SIGNED WITH ONE KOREAN REFINERY WITH OTHER TWO REFINERIES NOT SUBMITTING BIDS. AT THE PRESENT, THEREFORE USFK PROCUREMENT OF POL PRODUCTS APPEARS TO DEPEND UPON OFFSHORE SUPPLY SITUATION RATHER THAN ANY KOREAN POLITICAL FACTORS. FYI TOTAL USFK POL PROCUREMENT IN KOREA AT PRESENT AMOUNTS TO ONLY TWO PERCENT OF KOREA'S REFINING OUTPUT. HABIB

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Message Attributes

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